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CAREER FAIR 2003 TO HELP WELFARE RECIPIENTS FIND JOBS

*More Than 4,000 H&HS Clients Will Attend Monroe County
Welfare-to-Work Event*

More than 4,000 Monroe County Department of Human & Health Services clients are anticipated to receive assistance in finding jobs at the County's Career Fair 2003. The event to be held tomorrow Thursday, April 24, 2003 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Riverside Convention Center, will feature over 60 local companies. Attendance at the specially-designed Career Fair is required for all employable public assistance recipients. The event is also open to the general public.

"Finding a job is the first and most important step on the way to independence for those on public assistance," said Doyle. "The 2003 Career Fair is another example of how our ongoing reform efforts are benefiting clients by helping them help themselves through rejoining the workforce."

In 2003, Monroe County has already helped 637 HHS applicants find work through its new directed job search program – saving taxpayers nearly \$900,000 in avoided welfare costs.

"By linking employers directly with HHS clients, whether it's at our offices on St. Paul Street or through the Career Fair, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of welfare recipients finding work," said Doyle. "And, by helping them find jobs we're saving significant dollars for our taxpayers."

This is the tenth year Monroe County has hosted a Career Fair for welfare recipients, and, importantly, the first when the attendance of welfare recipients has been required. The event is presented by SUNY Rochester Educational Opportunity Center and the NYS Department of Labor. Co-sponsors of the event include Monroe County, FOX Rochester and RochesterWorks!

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*For further information, call:
Communications and Special Events, 428-2380
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